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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,995	09/17/2003	Soon Jo Lee	9988.059.00-US	1979

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EXAMINER

GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3749

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hopkins et al. (US 4,010,996). Hopkins is considered to disclose the claimed invention comprising:

a terminal block **138** disposed within the laundry dryer control panel, the terminal block having a lower part **140** and an upper part **142**;

a wall extending from the terminal block lower part and the terminal block upper part (please see figures **18-22** wherein the raised portion surrounding reference character **166** and above reference character **142** is considered to anticipate the claimed wall because both extend from a terminal upper and lower part respectively **and further reading of column 7, it is disclosed that the double ended hermaphroditic contact also is considered to anticipate the claimed wall extending from the upper and lower terminal block because that contact passes from both an upper portion and a lower portion and being barrel shaped and containing a conductor it serves as a wall as claimed because it surrounds the conductor based on the broadest reasonable claim construction from the specification definition of wall**);

a first wire **32** or **170** extending out of the terminal block lower part; and

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a second wire **170** or **32** extending out of the terminal block upper part wherein the wall extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields (the claim recitation shields is broadly and reasonably construed in light of the specification to be anticipated by the shielded area disclosed in Hopkins as discussed above) an exposed portion of the first wire and the second wire (please see column 7 lines 3-68 which is considered to disclose the claimed shielding feature). Hopkins is also considered to disclose the claimed feature wherein the wall covers a first connector coupling the terminal block lower part with a first power wire and a second connector coupling the terminal block upper part with a second power wire from a first side of the terminal block and a second side of the terminal block (also at column 7 lines 3-68) and single body terminal block formation as shown in figure **18**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormick (US 2,742,708). McCormick is considered to disclose the claimed invention comprising:

base **314** forming a floor;

a front cabinet **211** forming a front portion of the clothes dryer;

a side cabinet **218** forming a side portion of the clothes dryer;

a top cover **216** provided on a top surface of the front cabinet, the side cabinet and the back cover;

a control panel **217** provided on a rear portion of the top cover. McCormick is considered to disclose the claimed invention except for the claimed back cover forming

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a back side of the clothes dryer, terminal block provided on an inside of the control panel, a wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire extending from an upper front portion and lower front portion of the terminal block including a single body terminal block formation. Hopkins, another structure for a clothes dryer, is considered to disclose a back cover 42 in figures 1 & 18-22, a wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire extending from an upper front portion, and lower front portion of the terminal block including a single body terminal block formation as discussed in the anticipatory rejection above. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of McCormick with the back cover, wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire extending from an upper front portion, and lower front portion of the terminal block including a single body terminal block formation, considered disclosed in Hopkins, for the purpose of producing an improved completely hermaphroditic electrical contact terminal having an insulation displacing portion and an intermating portion adapted to engage a relatively wide range of related contacts.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormick in view of Hopkins in further view of Sergeant et al. (US 4,820,189). McCormick in view of Hopkins is considered to disclose the claimed invention, as discussed above under the obviousness rejection, except for the claimed wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire covers a first connector connecting a lower part of the terminal block with a power cord wire and a second connector connecting an upper part of the terminal block with a power cord wire from a front portion of the terminal block and a side portion of the terminal block. Sergeant, another structure for a

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clothes dryer, is considered to disclose a wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire covers a first connector connecting a lower part of the terminal block with a power cord wire and a second connector connecting an upper part of the terminal block with a power cord wire from a front portion of the terminal block and a side portion of the terminal block at column 4 lines 1-12. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of McCormick in view of Hopkins with the wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire covers a first connector connecting a lower part of the terminal block with a power cord wire and a second connector connecting an upper part of the terminal block with a power cord wire from a front portion of the terminal block and a side portion of the terminal block, considered disclosed in Sergeant, for the purpose of shielding a covered power cord wire.

Conclusion

Applicant's pre-appeal brief argued that certain elements were not disclosed. After a conference was held, the conferees suggested that the prior art was not fully discussed to appreciate how the claimed invention is anticipated or obviated by the prior art. This action maintains the same rejections using the same references and further explains the prior art. Applicants are invited to fully read each reference in order to gain an understanding of claimed features as taught in the prior art. Reference characters and cited portion of each reference are merely illustrative of the most pertinent areas with respect to the claimed invention. To fully understand the claimed invention in light of the prior art, each entire reference must be read and understood, since the reference characters and cited portions are fragments of the synergistic teachings of the prior art.

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

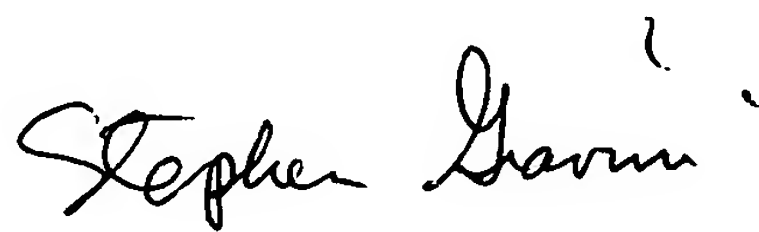
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg can be reached on 571 272 4828. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SMG
October 25, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Garm", with a small mark above the "n".